
Jovis die Novembris 18. 1680.

Ordered,

That Mr. Lewis have leave of this House
to Print his Information this day given
in at the Bar of this House.

William Goldsbrough,
Cler. Dom. Com.

By vertue of this Order above-menton-
ed, I do appoint *Randal Taylor*, near
Stationers-Hall, to Print my Informa-
tion, and that no other Person or Persons
do Print the same.

Decemb. 6.
1680.

William Lewis.

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THE
INFORMATION
OF

William Lewis,
G E N T.

Delivered at the BAR of
The House of Commons,

The Eighteenth of November, 1680.

Together with

His further NARRATIVE relating thereto.

In all which is contained

A Confirmation of the POPISH PLOT, and the Justice
of the Executions done upon *Gröbe, Pickering*, and the Jesu-
ites for the Design of Killing His Most Sacred Majesty.

And discovering further the Design of the Papists to set the
Navy Royal on Fire in Harbour; and to throw the guilt
of the whole upon the Presbyterians.

With their Contrivances to take away the Life of the Right
Honourable *Anthony Earl of Shaftsbury*.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Randal Taylor*, near Stationers-Hall,
MDC LXXX.

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Honourable Anthony Earl of Shaftesbury.

L O N D O N.

Printed for Richard Taylor, near St Dunstons-Hall,
M D C L X X.

THE DEPOSITIONS OF

Mr. William Lewis.

ABOUT February, in the Year 1677, being then resident in London, and out of Employment, I went to one *Walter Jones*, a Priest, formerly belonging to *Wind-House*, being a person with whom I had been acquainted from my Childhood, desiring him to help me to some Employment. An Army being then upon raising for Flanders, Mr. Jones went with me to one *Grove*, since Executed for Treasons relating to the Plot, but then living at the *Golden-Ball* in *York-Street* in *Cobent-Garden*. At whose House, after some little discourse, the said *Grove* appointed Mr. Jones and my self to go to the *Wind-Mill Tavern* in *Bridges-street*, in the aforesaid Parish, and promised to come to us, which he accordingly did. There Mr. Jones acquaints *Grove* that I was his particular Friend, and a *Roman Catholick*, and that he knew a great many of my Relations, who likewise were *Roman Catholicks*, and how at that juncture of time

time I wanted an Employment, desiring him to lay out for one as much as in him lay. To which Grove replied, that he would do for me as much as lay in his power, desiring me to call upon him at his House, and put him in mind of his promise. Which accordingly I did several times. The chief of our Discourse was still concerning the then present Estate of the *Roman* Catholicks in *England*, and he would be often wishing that that Religion might be well established in *England*.

After about four Months acquaintance with Grove, the aforesaid Mr. *Walter Jones* came to see me; I then acquainted him I had not been at Confession a long time; Mr. *Jones* advised me to go to Father *Harcourt*, (since Executed for Treason,) to *Groves* House, where *Mafs* was commonly said.

In or about the Month of *May* 1678. I went to *Groves* House, with Mr. *Jones*, where there was an Altar set up in a Room one pair of Stairs. There I was Confessed by the said *Harcourt*; and as we were just going to *Mafs*, Grove took an occasion to speak to me, (*Whitebread, Harcourt, Fenwick*, since Executed for the same Treasons, and all the rest of the Company looking another way, as not seeming to take any notice of the discourse between Grove and my self,) and in that discourse this Communication past between us. Grove said to me, that if I would be ruled by him, I should be made for ever. I replied, I would submit my self to him. Then Grove took up a Pistol which lay on the left side of the Altar, saying, *This is that which must do the business, or words to that effect; but I will not reveal it to you, till you have taken the Sacrament to be secret; which I did upon his Request, at the same time with Pickering*

ering and himself, *Harcourt* being the Person who Administred. After Mass was ended, and the Altar removed, (for that was the usual custom in that place,) all the Company sat down at the Table in the Room, and I among the rest. Then *Grove* said, the business is to kill the King. To which I made answer, How ! to kill the King ! for what ? Then *Grove* and most of the Company said, *The King is a Heretick, and it is no Sin to kill him, or any other, to propagate the Roman Catholick Religion.* They asked me, whether I knew the Lord *Stafford*, and the Lord *Peters* ? I answer'd, yes : Then *Grove*, scratching his Head, seemed to be somewhat concern'd, and askt me again, whether I knew the Lord *Powis*, Lord *Arundel*, and Lord *Bellasis* ? I answered, I did not. Then most of the Company told me, if I would venture as far as *Pickering* and *Grove*, I should have at least one thousand pounds for a Reward, and that some of the best persons in *England* would engage their Honours for the true payment of the Money to me, after the business was effected ; and that I should be safely conveyed either into *France*, or where I pleased ; or if I would choose to tarry in *England*, I should have a Commission in the Catholick Army, which in a short time should be raised ; with much more discourse to that effect.

After this, *Jones* and I took our leaves, *Grove* desiring us to call upon him the next day (as I take it) which we did, and went with him from his House to the *Plough-Alehouse*, near *Somerset-House* in the *Strand*, where we found *Harcourt*, *Pickering*, and five or six more. At that Meeting *Grove* urged the business to me very home. I replied, I had bought a Horse, and was to go into the Lord of *Oxford's* Guard, which I lookt upon as a Settlement

ment; so that now, said I, should I go with you, and miscarry, I should be ruin'd. To which *Grove* replied, Fear it not: and then the rest seconded him, and directing their speech to me, said, *Grove* and *Pickering* shall go with you. I told them I had nothing but their bare words for my Gratuity. Whereupon *Grove* drew out of his Pocket a pair of Beads and a Manual Book, and solemnly vowed, holding them in his hands, That one of the best Persons in *England* should ingage himself for what was promised me. As to that, I told them, they might bring me a person I knew not, who might probably be no such person of Quality as they pretended. Then *Grove*, holding his Beads and Manual in his hands, as aforesaid, vowed it should be a Person of Quality; and desired me to meet him the next morning between nine or ten of the clock at *Somerset-House* Chappel, but if the Chappel Doors were not open, that I should walk by the Coach-Houses, and he would be certainly there.

Thus we parted, and the next morning I went, and met *Grove*, as he had appointed; who told me, that the Person of Quality could not then come, but wish'd me to meet him at four of the Clock that Afternoon, assuring me that the person of Quality would be there at that time. Accordingly I did; and then *Grove* brought me into *Somerset-House* Garden, where were also *Harcourt*, *Fenwick*, *Pickering*, and some four or five more.

About two Hours after my first coming into the Garden, there came a Person of Quality, who asked which was the man? Then *Grove* pointed to me, standing then under the *Piazza*, or Arched place in the said Garden, upon which the said Person

son of Quality took me by the hand, and led me away apart from the rest of the Company, and then began to speak to me in these following words, or to this effect: viz.

I am sensible you know what you are to do. I answered, my Lord, what am I to do? His Lordship said, You are to go with Grove, to Assassinate the King, and you shall have, when the business is effected, fifteen hundred pounds upon my Honour for a Reward; and if you like tarrying in England, you shall have a Commission in the Catholick Army, which will be suddenly raised; or you shall safely be conveyed into France, or where you please.

His Lordship gave me a Guinny, and bid me be rul'd by Grove, and so went away. Now Grove and the rest, had informed me before, that that same Person of Quality who should be ingaged for my Reward, was to be the Lord Bellasis: But I found it to be the Lord Arundel. When I was examined by the House of Lords, concerning this matter, their Lordships asked me what Lord Arundel I meant? I answer'd their Lordships, I knew him not by his Title. Then being asked what manner of Person the said Lord was? I Replied, he was Squint-Eyed, and had a kind of a Wart upon his Nose.

When the said Lord Arundel was gone from the place where he spoke to me in Somerset-House-Garden, Grove asked me if I was satisfied? I said yes, and withal repeated to Grove, and the rest, what the Lord had said to me, not taking notice in the least, but that it was the same Person they had mentioned to me, viz. the Lord Bellasis. Harcourt told me, if I would not be contented to stay in Eng-

land after the business was effected, I should be conveyed to *France*, or elsewhere, or to *Florence*, where the said Lord had great interest.

After some more discourse of this Nature, we parted; and in some short time after that, I went with *Jones* to the *Plough-Alehouse*, where *Whitebread*, *Harcourt*, and five or six more were met, at which time there was in their Company a tall, lusty *Irish-Man*, black Hair'd; who, as I understood afterwards, was to be employed to kill some Person of Quality; but the main of our discourse then was concerning the Number of *Prosselites* they had Converted, since the first time the last Toleration for Liberty of Conscience had been granted; expressing their sorrow for it's being repeal'd, nevertheless they doubted not, but very suddenly to have more freedom in *England* than ever they had since *Queen Mary's Days*; much applauding *Father Patrick* for being a main instrument in bringing over the Duke of *York* to the *Catholicks*.

Another time I went with the said *Jones* to the aforesaid *Plough-Alehouse*, where was *Harcourt*, *Whitebread*, and one *Kelly* a Priest, as *Jones* told me, and the tall black *Irish-man*, with three or four more, whose Names I cannot remember, but believe I should remember their Faces if I saw them. The substance of their discourse was, that if some Persons were not suddenly removed, it would prove very detrimental to the business, giving some hint of a faint-hearted Person, whom they had employed, but feared he would not effect his work. Thereupon as if it had been to supply that defect, they asked me if I would be employed? To which I readily gave my Compliance, as being thereunto before-hand desired by *Jones*, believing as I suppose,

pose, that it might be an encouragement to the
aforesaid Lusty *Irish*-Man to do the same, and at
the same time repeating their former Position, and
alleging that it was no sin to kill any Heretick to
propagate the Catholick Cause.

This strange discourse being over, we agreed to
meet again the next Morning, at the *White-Horse-
Tavern* in the *Strand*, and so we parted. Neither
did I go the next day to meet them at the *White-
Horse* according to my promise. For being much
troubled in Conscience, for such a voluntary Ob-
ligation of my self to secresie, by taking the Sacra-
ment, not knowing what it was I was to do, un-
til I had taken it, I presently resolv'd not to have
any further Conferences with those People, but
sold my Horse, and went to *Oxford*.

When I thus was gone from *London* to *Oxford*,
I chang'd my Name, and went by the Name
of *Winter*, for fear of being pursued by the Malice
of the Complotters, for declining their Proposals; and
not only so, but I also desired my Acquaintance that
they would know me by no other Name than that
of *Winter*, for Reasons best known to my self.

From *Oxford* I went to *Bristol*, and in about eight
Weeks after my first departure from *London*, I re-
turn'd again, and soon after that the Plot was detect-
ed. But before that, I well remember, I saw *Grove*
come out of the House where Captain *Lavalline*
lay in *Leicester-Fields*, and I asked *Grove* where he
had been? who reply'd, he had been with the said
Captain *Lavalline*, but did not tell me his business. I
have also seen Captain *Lavalline* once or twice go
into *Groves* House.

After my return to *London*, I became intimately acquainted with one *Richard Thomson*, who lived over against *Somerset-House*, being one that sold *Beads* and *Popish Books*, and was for villyfying of *Doctor Oates*, committed to the *Gate-House-Prison* in *Westminster*. I found by the said *Thomsons* discourse, that he believed there was no Plot, and much desired to have the Kings Evidence blasted. Whereupon I proposed to him a way whereby *Captain Bedlows* Evidence might be rendred invalid. This design presently took with him, and therefore he desired me to draw up in writing what I had to propose, saying, he would send it to some of the best Persons in *England* to peruse, and that if it were liked by them, I should not want encouragement to proceed. Accordingly I drew up my design in Paper, and he sent it by one of his Daughters to another Daughter of his living at the *Lord Bellasis* Apartment in the *Tower*; and this was the substance of the said Paper, viz.

I will go to *Bedlow*, with whom I was formerly intimately acquainted, and I will make him believe that I was one at the killing of *Sir Edmund-Bury-Godfrey*, and that I would become an Evidence therein, to Corroborate his. Provided *Mr. Bedlow* would first upon Oath accuse me to be one that was actual at the said Murther; which if he would do, I would retract my former promises, and produce Witnesses to prove my self to be in another place both before, at, and after the time of the said Murther. This Paper being delivered by means of the conveyance already mentioned, the said *Thomsons* Daughter brought her Father word, that the said Paper was sent to the *Duke of York*, directing him to go to *St. James's-Court* for an Answer, to one *Mrs. Eliots* the *Dukes* Nurse, as *Thomson* told me himself. I saw him go in to the said *S. James's-House*, and tarried for him, according to his appointment in the *Pall-Mall* whither

whither in some short time he returned, and gave me five Guineys, desiring me to proceed with all care and diligence, saying; If I could effect what I had proposed, I should never want; for he that sent me the five Guineys, would be the best friend to me of any man in England. I asked him who sent them? He answered; No less man than His Royal Highness.

In Order to the effecting of the said Proposal, I went in some short time after, with a Resolution to give Mr. Bedlow a visit, who then hapned not to be within. Whereupon I returned to the said Thompson, who was then in Whitehall, with one Nevill, alias Paine, who was privy to the business. I told them Captain Bedlow was not within; upon which it was resolved, that I should make enquiry in all places we could imagin where Mr. Bedlow had lodged, with an intention, by that means, to find out whither he had not been in England, when he swore himself to be in Flanders, about carrying on the Plot. With this Design I went accordingly to several places where I thought he had lodged, and likewise to several Prisons, but could not find any thing material, until I went to the King's Bench Prison, where I found that one of the Name, and a Welsh-man, had been there a Prisoner, and by all description I did verily believe him to have been the same Captain Bedlow. For that reason I took a copy of his Causes, and went immediately to the said Thompson, and made him acquainted with what I had done: And indeed we thought we had made a great progress; for that having perused a Narrative of Coleman's Tryal, we found therein, That the said Captain Bedlow had sworn how he had been with Father Harcourt, at Mr. Coleman's House, where he received a Packet of Letters, as I take it, in May the 24th or 25th, 1677. to carry into Flanders,

and in the said Copy of Causes, we found he had been a close Prisoner at the same time, in the aforesaid Prison of *King's-Bench*.

Thompson was so transported with the good News, as we then took it to be, That he went immediately to *St. James's Court*, and delivered the said Copy of the Causes, inclosed in a Letter of mine (directed to him) to the said *Madam Elliott*, as he himself told me. Which having done, he returned to me to the usual place, in the *Pall-Mall*, where he appointed me to tarry for him; and from thence we immediately went to *Whitehall*, upon his saying, That *Madam Elliot* had appointed him so to do. Being got to *Whitehall*, we went into the *Stone-Gallery* in *Whitehall*, where I saw a pretty lusty elderly Gentlewoman speak to the said *Thompson*, which Gentlewoman I understood afterwards by him the said *Thompson*, to be the said *Madam Elliot*, who ordered him to tarry till she came down (for she went up to the Duke's Apartments.) In about half an hours time she returned, bidding him carry the said Letter to the Lady *Powis*, the Duke having kept a Copy of the Causes. All which I had from *Thompson's* own mouth.

This was on the night before the Dissolution of the first Parli ment. Posting from *Whitehall*, we went to *Lincoln's-In Fields*, to the Lady *Powis's* House, and there *Thompson* delivered the said Letter to the Lady *Powis* herself, who ordered him the said *Thompson*, to call the next day for an Answer, as he said, for that she the said Lady *Powis* would first acquaint the Lords in the *Tower* concerning the business, which was at large mentioned in my said Letter. *Thompson* went according to that Order to the Lady *Powis* the next day, and returned in a short time to me. But I found by the event that some others

others had been to enquire at the *King's-Bench*, where it appeared upon a more strict Enquiry, that it was not Captain *Bedlow*, but that it was his Brother, who had been then a Prisoner at the time mentioned in the afore-said Copy of Causes. By which mistake of mine I was laid aside, and looked upon as one that had a design upon them.

About the time the five Jesuits were executed, I went with one *Theophilus Dalton*, an *Irish* Gentleman, belonging to one Squire *Loftus*, to *Knightsbridge*, to visit one who went by the Name of *Churchill*, and there sheltered himself under the Notion of a Dr. of *Physick*, but really was a *Priest*. With him I had some discourse concerning what I proposed to *Thompson*, relating to Captain *Bedlow*. Upon which he desired me to inform him what it was, and if he liked it, he would send or go himself to the Lords in the *Tower*, from whom I should have encouragement to proceed. I told him, it was then too long to Rehearse, in regard it was late. However, at his Request, I promised to wait on him next morning, and accordingly I went to his Lodging in *Knightsbridge*, at a *Roman Catholicks* House at the Sign of the Red or Golden Lion, where I found him so disguised, that at first sight I hardly knew him, notwithstanding I had been almost an hour in his company but the day before. After a little discourse, I made him acquainted with the whole Concern; who thereupon made answer, *That he would see what could be done in it*, further saying, *There was a business on foot of far greater Importance, which he hop'd would take effect*. I desired to know what that business might be, he said, as best occurs to my present memory, *That there were Endeavours using to procure that all the Arms, belonging to the Militia in London, should be brought and kept in a general Magazine, and then*
the

the City would be easily surpriz'd with Six thousand men, notwithstanding the Plot was discover'd. After a little more discourse, he asked me if I would go with him? To which I readily consented. Whereupon we went to the Tower together; and being come to the Lord Arundel's Lodgings, he desir'd me to tarry below for him (which I promis'd to do) till he went up. He had been there but a very short time, before there came forth a person, who, as I believe, was sent to give Intelligence to the Lords, of the said Churchill's being there: For upon the aforesaid Persons Return, I saw the Lord Petre, Lord Arundel, Lord Stafford, with several other Persons go in where the said Churchill went in before.

About an hour after that, Churchill came to me, and going back towards Knightsbridge, between Clarendon Houle and Hide Park, he bad me be of Courage, for there were great hopes, That all things would go well, for that the Lords in the Tower had given him an Account of their great hopes, that the said Arms would be disposed of as aforesaid, and then the City should be surprized with six thousand men, and all disaffected Persons of Quality, and interest should be disposed of as the Roman Catholicks pleased. I asked him how it was possible such a thing could be effected? He replied, that the Popish Plot would in a little time be turned into a Presbyterian Plot, saying, there were Instruments at work to make the People believe, that the game of Forty one, was playing over again, and that there was a List taken of all the Names of those who were most forward in Prosecuting the Roman Catholicks: all which Persons he stigmatized by the name of Presbyterians. There was likewise another List of all the names of those who were reputed Presbyterians, and had Considerable Estates; all which should be Confiscated, that thereby such

Sums

Sumis of money might be raised, that there might be no need of a Parliament, until such time as things were better settled. I asked him whether he could help me into an Employment? He said, he would go to the Lady Powis and discourse her Ladyship concerning me, and desir'd me to call in a day or two for an Answer. In this manner we parted for that time, and according to his desire I went about two days after to the aforesaid place at *Knightsbridge*, but found him altogether reserv'd and shie to let me know any thing more of his secrecies, excusing himself, that he was just going into the Country, but would be glad to see me at his Return; which coldness of his was the reason that I never saw him since. For I believe the Lady Powis had rendr'd my Endeavors, relating to Captain *Bedlow*, as a design against them, which made him so extremely cautious.

About the same time, I became acquainted with one Mrs. *Holbey*, alias *Brinknell* (who in the following Relation is often mentioned) much after the same manner as I did with Mr. *Thompson*. This Mrs. *Holby* I went to visit some time after Mr. *Dangerfield* had detected the Sham Presbyterian Plot, and the contrivers thereof. Among the rest of our discourse, I told her, that the Lady Powis and others, who had employed Mr. *Dangerfield*, were fow'd by him in their own kind. To which she reply'd, that I had been made use of, as to my former Proposals, had not there been a Presbyterian Plot upon discovery, so that I knew no more of their Transactions, as far as I can remember at present; until I became a Prisoner in the *Marshalsey*, which was in August 1680. I had not been in that Prison above three days, before one Mr. *John Zeale*, became likewise a Prisoner in the same place, who at the drinking of a Bowl of Punch, let some words fall, how he was like to become an Evidence in the Plot. I took little notice of his words then, until we were in Bed together, at what time I ask'd him how he was likely to

become an Evidence in the Plot. He answered, That a certain person, whose name was *Masson*, a Victualler, living in the *Strand*, had endeavour'd to suborn him to swear High Treason against Sir *Francis Ratcliff*, whom formerly *Mr. Zeale* had served, in the nature of a Page; and how he was brought by the said *Masson* to *Dr. Oates*, & by him to the Earl of *Shaftsbury*. For both the said Earl and the Dr. did at first really believe that *Masson* had brought a true and real Evidence to them. But his Lordship, upon a strict Examination of *Mr. Zeal*, found that he knew nothing material of the business; and so *Masson* was lookt upon as a knave for his pains. For a further account of which, I refer the Reader to *Mr. Zeale's* own Relation.

Having heard *Mr. Zeale* declare thus much, I ask'd him whether he had any thing else of importance to discover? for that then I would send for some friends of mine to have them come, that he might be examined; to which he answer'd, he had.

Next morning I writ a Letter, and sent it to *Mrs. Holbey*, in which I acquainted her, that there was a person in the *Marshalsey*, that could make out several things of importance against the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, and *Dr. Oates*, which might prove advantageous to the Innocent. Withal I desir'd her to communicate the same to some friends, and let me have a speedy Answer. *Mrs. Holbey* came to me, and brought with her a Gentlewoman, who, as *Mrs. Holbey* told me, was *Mrs. Cellier*, which afterwards I understood to be true by *Mrs. Cellier* her self. I acquainted them, that there was a Gentleman, who was my Bed-fellow, who could make a discovery against the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and *Dr. Oates*. *Mrs. Cellier* made answer, Let me have whatever he can say, under his own hand writing; and when I see it, if it be of Consequence I will bring a Justice of the Peace or two, and have you both out to a Tavern to have *Zeale* Sworn. Upon which words

words of hers, I promised to perform her desire :

At that time Mrs. *Cellier* brought two or three Books with her, Intituled *Malice defeated*, or the *Mystery of the Meal-Tub*; and while she stayed with us, she sent one of those Books by her Foot-boy, as I understood him to be, to a Justice of the Peace in *Southwark*, but at that time I neither knew the said Justice, nor could I remember his name for some time, though I had heard Mrs. *Cellier* & her Friend make mention of it in the Room. But upon his coming to Examine Mr. *Zeale*, I begged leave to ask his Worship a Question, which he freely granted me, and promised to answer if he could. I then asked him, whether he could remember that a Boy came to him, with a Book from Mrs. *Cellier*, and whether he refused it or no, saying to him, I believed it was an Idle Pamphlet? To which he answered, that such a Boy did come to him, and brought him such a Book; but that he did not receive it.

At the same time also, for a farther encouragement Mrs. *Cellier* gave me a Crown-piece to drink a glass of Wine with Mr. *Zeale*, assuring me, if he had any thing material to discover, we should not tarry in Prison long; and so she departed, leaving one of the aforesaid Books for us to peruse, saying, it was a Book that would instruct us how we should not Err, or words to that effect; whereupon both Mrs. *Holbey* and Mrs. *Cellier* took their leaves, and went away.

The next Morning early, I borrowed a Pen and Ink, and after I had done with it, I laid it in the window of my Chamber, and going out of the Room, I saw the said *Zeale* rise out of his bed in his shirt, and make towards the window. When I came into the room again, I found him in bed, where I heard a noise like the folding of paper, which I then did not much regard: but in a little time after the said *Zeale* was up, shewed he me a Paper, saying, Here are the Heads which I have kept by
me

me, and what I can swear against the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and *Dr. Oates*; when I had viewed it, and read it, I told him; *If this be all, it will avail nothing.* Then Recollecting my self that the noise of the folding of paper about the bed was made by *Mr. Zeal*, and that the Paper was very clean, and the words but newly written, (which he afterwards confessed to be true) he then told me he had more to declare, but was loth to trust me, being a stranger. However at length with much persuation, I got him to write a second Paper. Which he had no sooner finished, but in came *Mrs. Cellier* into my Room, and *Mr. Zeal* at my request went out. Presently I shewed her the aforesaid Paper, which after she had taken and read, she told me, she would go into the Burrough, and shew it to a Friend that tarried for her. With that she went avay, and in an hour's time return'd again, and then desired me to transcribe a certain Paper vvhich she had brought back along vvith her; but vvich vvas not of *Mr. Zeal's* hand vvriting, and to vvich much more had been added than vvas in the paper, vvich she received from me, and carryed out along vvith her a little before; at her request I did transcribe it, but took no notice to *Mrs. Cellier*, that I perceived the matter to be enlarged.

When I had done, she desir'd me to get *Zeal* to transcribe it; telling me that the next morning, *Mrs. Holbey* should come for it; vvithal giving me this caution, to take no notice to *Mrs. Holbey*, that the said *Mrs. Cellier* had been vvith me.

Accordingly *Zeal* did Transcribe the said enlarged paper, and *Mrs. Holbey* came and received the same, and at the same time made great promises of a very large gratuity to *Mr. Zeal*. After vvich, she desir'd him the said *Mr. Zeal* to put his hand to some other Paper; vvich he accordingly did; vvich being done, *Mrs. Holbey* went avay, telling me she would go to *Mrs. Cellier's* vvith the said Papers.

After

After this Mr. Dalton coming to me to the Prison, I desired him to go to Mrs. Holbey, to know how the business succeeded; which accordingly he did, and was by Mrs. Holbey upon that Accompt brought to Mrs. Cellyers, and so returning back, he brought me another Paper, containing in it more than that which I had given to Mrs. Cellyer before. Upon the Delivery, said Mr. Dalton, *Mrs. Cellyers desires to have this Paper also transcribed by Mr. Zeal, and I will call the next Morning for it.* When Mr. Dalton was gon, I shewed it to Zeal, telling him, that there was more in that Paper than was in the former; and ask'd him, whether he could Swear to it? To which Zeal replied, *I can, for ought they know.* Whereupon I told him, that I could not believe Mrs. Cellyer had been such a Woman. Upon these Words, Mr. Zeal came close to the point, and told me, that if I would be faithful to him, he would be true to me, and we will agree to try what this Woman would be at. To which I consented. Mr. Dalton according to his promise, called the next morning, and had the Paper transcribed to his desire, by Zeal. Away he went with it, but in less than an hour return'd with it again, because it was not Sign'd; whereupon Zeal did likewise Signe it and gave it to Dalton to carry to Cellyer. She upon sight of the Paper which Dalton carried her, ask'd him, as he told me, for the Original, which he left with Zeal and me. Whereupon he came back the same day, and told us, he must have it; and gave us for his Reason, for that Mrs. Cellyer said, she would not have the hand writing seen by any means, in regard it was well known by most persons of Quality at Court.

Mr. Zeal at first was very loath to part with it; however, I thought it not convenient at that time to disoblige her; and therefore overperswaded Mr. Zeal to give it the said Dalton.

F . Up.

Upon the delivery of the Paper, Mr. *Zeal* told the said *Dalton*, that if he parted with the said Paper, he should not know what to swear to ; for that he had no Copy of the same, and therefore he desired to have a Copy in another hand sent by Mrs. *Holbey*. To which Mr. *Dalton* made Answer. that it was torn, because it was found to be impertinent. In the mean time I found by *Zeal*, That he mistrusted all this to be a contrivance of mine : upon which I promised him he should be fully satisfied to the contrary, if he could propose any way to effect the same, whereby such a satisfaction might be brought to pass.

Thereupon we consulted both together, and at length agreed, That when Mrs. *Celyer* came again, Mr. *Zeal* should get into a little Colehole adjoining to the Chamber where we lay, and from whence he might hear all the Discourse which should pass between her and my self.

In a very short time after, Mrs *Celyers* came again, and then in the first place gave me many thanks for my Care and Diligence in the Business; urging what great Distress the Roman-Catholicks were in, saying, that his Majesty was resolved to have no compassion of them, and further adding, that it was better to die by endeavouring to advantage their Cause, than to die or be utterly ruined by lying still, with some more Discourse to the same purpose ; and so promising to come again in a day or two, she took her leave and went away.

When she was gon, *Zeal* accused me for not being as good as my promise. To which I answered, that she came unexpected, and therefore could not find any opportunity to get him where we agreed, assuring him withal, that she was suddenly to come again.

Soon

Soon after Mrs. *Celyers* did come again according to her Promise, and I gave *Zeal* the Sign by laying my Finger to my Nose; and the opportunity by holding her in the Yard in Discourse, until I Judged he was got into the Cole-hole. When I thought him hid, I brought her into my Chamber, where we had this following Discourse to the best of what I can possibly at present remember, *viz.*

Mrs. Cell. Mr. *Lewis*, are you resolved to do your self and all the Roman Catholicks in *England* good?

Lewis. Yes, If I can with safety. Then she looked every way about the Room, and under the Bed with a careful Eye, and then not believing any body within hearing, she sat down and went on.

Cell. I understand you can do any thing with Mr. *Zeal*, pray let me desire you to ask him what Ship his Father is Purser of, and likewise know of him what number of Ships there may be where the Ship to which his Father belongs doth lye.

Lewis. Madam, I will give you the best satisfaction I can.

With that I went out of the Room, pretending to go to *Zeal*, who was then really in the Cole-hole, and having staid some time without, I brought her word the Ship was called the *Princess*, as I formerly had written to Mrs. *Holbey*; and told her moreover, that the Ship lay at *Chatham*; where there Rode almost half the Navy. Upon that she again repeated to me the miserable Condition in which the Roman Catholicks were, and how that it was not possible to live more miserable under any Prince in Christendome than they were like to do under this King.

Now Mr. *Lewis*, said Mrs. *Celier*, if you will after I have procured your Liberty, go with Mr. *Zeal* and set the Ship to which his Father belongs on Fire, and as
many

many more as you can. I will give you fifty pounds to effect the same, and I will make that fifty three hundred, after the business is accomplished ; and there shall be the like Order taken for the rest in other Harbours. And to this purpose, when you are out, I will bring you to those persons who shall engage for what I have promised you ; and they shall give you your Instructions how to proceed, and dispatches shall be sent into *France*, to be in a readiness to give Assistance. To which I replied, Madam, why will you impart such a secret as this to me ? especially before you have the Answers to those dispatches ?

You are very curious, said she, but for your satisfaction, there are Answers come already for ought you know.

I replied, can there be no better way, than to set the Fleet on Fire ? To which she answered, there was not. For said she, we have tried all other ways we can think of. Then falling into other Discourse, she discovered what great hopes the Roman-Catholicks had, when Sir Robert Payton was committed to the Tower, That he would have impeacht the *Rotten Members of Parliament*, meaning those that were disaffected to the Roman-Catholicks, and particularising the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, that so they might have been committed to the Tower ; expecting that when they were so committed, the People in general would have been glad that an Act of Indemnity should have passed, by which means the Lords in the Tower, and all others concern'd in the Plot should be discharg'd without exceptions.

She further also said, she was to receive in four or five days time, a considerable sum of money from the Duke of York, but for what use I cannot tell, out of which sum I should have my three hundred pounds for burning

burning the ships, saying, she would take speedy care to have both me and *Zeal* suddenly out of Prison; in Confirmation whereof she then gave me a broad piece of Gold, took her leave and went away.

In some short time after, Mr. *Dalton* came by Mrs. *Cellyers* direction, to take Copies of our Actions, which then could be no less then a hundred and twenty pounds, in Order to have us discharged, but the next News I heard was that Mrs. *Cellyer* was not only in Prison, but Convicted for Printing her Pamphlet. Thereupon not hearing from her, as I was wont to do, I intreated Mr. *Dalton* to go see her, which he accordingly did; and as he told Mr. *Zeal* and my self, she desired him to encourage Mr. *Zeal*, and I was not to flinch, for she hoped that all things would go well, notwithstanding the hard measures she had; for that she doubted not, but they who put her upon Publishing the said Book, would stand by her.

In some short time after, *Dalton* went to see Mrs. *Holbey*, who as he said, delivered him a Letter, which she had received from *Cellyers*, after her Imprisonment in *Newgate*, directed to Captain *Hill* a Prisoner in the Fleet. *Holbey*, desiring him to go with the said Letter to *Hill*, which he promised to do; but before he went with it, he brought it to me, telling me withal how he came by it. thereupon I opened it, and found the Contents thereof to be to this effect, to the best of my Remembrance.

Sir, Pray let me know how much it will cost to remove two poor Gentlemen from the Marshalsey to your Prison. They are to become Evidences alike with you, keep them steady; for I hope all things will go well very speedily, Subscribed *E. Cellyer*.

After I had Read it, I sealed it up, and Mr *Dalton*
G went

went with it. he being gone, I made *Zeal* acquainted with the said Letter, whereupon he writ to *Hill*, being formerly acquainted with him, to let him know how he was suspected by the *Roman Catholicks*, and therefore desired him to satisfy them better concerning of it. Which I believe the said *Hill* did do; for soon after, came two Women from *Hill*, and from the *Sun Eclips*, though not so much *Clouded*, but that they hoped he would Shine again, (under which Denomination *Mrs. Celiers* often sent to us) and brought with them a Letter from *Hill*, to desire *Zeal* to send him by them in writing, the particulars of what he had to swear, which *Zeal* promised to do, and had done it, but that he was by me dissuaded from it. One of the said Women told me why *Zeal* had not Money sent him, in particular, was because he was not sworn, upon which one of the said Women took an occasion to ask him, whether he would be sworn? For that then they would get some Justices to come to him; to which *Mr. Zeal* seemed unwilling, saying, he was to go before the King and Council, where he was to be put to his Oath, which would be much better.

Now *Mrs. Celiers* having formerly ordered me to importune *Mrs. Holbey*, by Letters for Money, because as she said, she would not have her to know any thing of the Concern (but since I rather, believe by that Policy, she intended to have something to produce against us, in case we should Confess any thing against her) I writ a Letter to *Mrs. Holbey* according to my order, to desire her to speak to the *Sun Eclips*, to lend me some Money towards my enlargement and then I would follow the business, and get other Evidences to Confirm *Mr. Zeal*, or to that effect; but really intending by that means, to discover more of their designs, if possible, to make things more plainly appear.

Soon

Soon after the sending of that Letter, Mrs. Holbey, on a Saturday in the Evening, came and sent for me to the Under Clerks House of this Prison, where I went, and found her in Company with an other Woman. Mrs. Holbey told me, she had shewn my Letter to the *Sun Eclipsist*, &c. saying, the *Sun Eclipsist*, meaning Mrs. Celiers, desired me to have patience for three weeks or a Month longer, by which time we should both be certainly discharged, adding farther that the Reason why I was not Released sooner, was, because the *Sun Eclipsist* did not Judge Zeal wise enough to manage the business against the Lord *Shafts-bury* and Doctor *Oats*, and they were resolved to Release neither of us until Zeal was sworn.

Now the substance of the so often mentioned Paper, relating to the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, and Doctor *Oats*, and so often Corrected and Advised by Mrs. Celier, and intended for a Deposition was, that the Lord of *Shafts-bury* had suborned Zeal to swear high Treason against the Duke of *York*, and the Lord *Peterborough*, and that Doctor *Oats* had suborn'd him to swear high Treason against Sir *Francis Ratcliff*.

When I had delivered the foregoing Information to the Right Honourable the House of Commons, I was ordered up into the Speakers Chamber; and Sir *Thomas Stringer* and Collonel *Warcup*, another of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex* and Liberties of *Westminster*, took my Affidavit upon Oath, of the Truth of what was therein contained. And being then demanded by the said Justices of the Peace, whether or no I knew what Justices of the Peace they were, proposed by Mrs. Celier to take Mr. Zeal's Examination. I made them Answer, that I would tell them all that I could remember concerning the Business. Upon that, I was remanded back again

to the Bar of the House of Commons a second time, where I made this farther Information by word of Mouth, *viz.*

That when Mrs. *Celier* came to me to the *Marshall-sea*, she entered into a debate, in what manner, and by what persons, as fittest for the purpose, it would be most proper to get Mr. *Zeal* examin'd. Thereupon, I delivered my Opinion to her, that it would be the most convenient way to have the said Mr. *Zeal* over the Water, to the Lord Chief Justice *Scroggs*, who as I understood by the Roman Catholicks was their friend. But Mr. *Celier* would by no means yield to that, alledging for her reason, that if he should take the Examination, it would come to be known, which might probably render him incapable to do the Roman Catholicks any farther good services. Then I judg'd that the Recorder of London Sir George *Jfferies* would be a proper person. To which she answered to the same effect, as she had done before in reference to the Lord Chief Justice: and then concluded her self, that Mr. *Foster* and Mr. *Harvey*, both in Commission of the Peace for the County of *Surrey*, would be the most proper persons for that purpose, and that she would have them come and take the said *Zeals* Examination. But they did not come, in regard that I dissuaded her from it. Alledging that it would be better to have him first discharged, for that otherwise the whole business would look with such a face, as if what he did, were the effects of his necessity, and to procure his Liberty.

I further inform'd the Right Honourable House, that I had a Brother who was a Menial Servant in the Portugal Embassadors House, that liv'd then in Great Queen street, and that the acquaintance which I had with

with others of the Family, call'd me often thither, by which means I knew the said Embassador personally. That I did see the said Embassador go into the House of the Lord Chief Justice *Scroggs* in *Chancery Lane*. But what His Excellencies business was, I know not, nor any other particulars in any kind whatsoever, against the said Lord Chief Justice, but onely what I have already declared, and that I had heard many *Roman Catholics* esteem and speak of him as their Friend.

I must acknowledge that I never receiv'd a greater inward satisfaction from any thing that ever I did, than when by disburthening my Conscience of that unfortunate Load that lay upon it, I had made this full Discovery of what I knew. The apprehension of Crimes which I had consented to, and undertaken to carry on, so horrid in the Contrivance, and so dreadful in the Committing, did so strangely disturb and disquiet my thoughts, that the more I endeavour'd to struggle with those apprehensions, and throw off their uneasie weight from my mind, the more I saw my self entangl'd in those fears and jealousies, to which a Design of wicked craft and contrivance, and the dangerous consequences thereof had expos'd me.

This put me into a deep Consultation with my self, what course to take. Among all the ways I could propose to my self, none seem'd so honest nor so safe, as that of a full Discovery. To this purpose my first thoughts directed me to throw my self at the feet of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, as being a person whose Life was so much aimed at in the Contrivance I had to reveal. But then I found that my Imprisonment deny'd me the Opportunity of personal Address. For remedy of which misfortune, I wrote a Letter to a Relation of my own, to the effect as follows.

H

Madam,

Madam,

It has bin my misfortune, or rather good luck, to become a Prisoner to this place, where I have bin made acquainted with some horrid Designs, which are now on foot against the Government, and against the never to be forgotten Earl of Shaftsbury, against whom there is a Paper containing horrid and most false Articles to be deliver'd into Council, on purpose to destroy his Lordship. Therefore I desire you to come to me, and bring a friend with you, in whom you can confide, and I will declare all to you, and make it appear as clear as the day, or never desire to be own'd by you, as

Madam,

Your most humble Servant
and Kinsman,

W. LEWIS.

This Letter, (the Lady not being at home to whom it was directed) was brought back again to me. So that being at a stand what to do, I resolv'd to take the advice of a Gentleman, who was also a Prisoner in the same House for Debt, who, we observ'd, had long had a jealousy of our proceedings, and had pry'd all he could into our Actions, but all to no purpose, till I made him privy to my Design of Discovery. He being one that had bin formerly in Publick Employment, and by that means a person that had had the Honour to be known to the Earl of Shaftsbury, undertook to send to his Lordship the Letter which I had written to my Relation; which the said Gentleman did accordingly, enclosing the same in a Letter of his own directed to his Lordship, in these words:

Super-

Superfcribed, to the Right Honourable the
Earl of Shaftesbury.

May it please your Lordship,

I did in my first Information which I presented to your Lordship, give a Character of Mr. Lewis, and the Designs that were on foot by Mrs. Cellier against your Lordship's Person. I have so far prevailed upon Mr. Lewis, as now to make a full Discovery of all their Transactions, and have brought him to give it under his hand, which he hath done in a Letter to one Mrs. Ingram, which Letter I have here enclosed sent to your Lordship, &c.

Subscribed,

May it please your Lordship, your
Lordships most humble Servant,

JOHN HAYTER,

Upon the receipt of those Letters, the next morning two Gentlemen came to me from his Lordship, as I afterwards understood, to the Prison, desiring to know what it was I had to say? Further adding, That if I were not willing to disclose the particulars to them, they would, if I thought fitting, bring some Justices of the Peace to the Prison, to take my Examination. To which I readily consented. Thereupon the said two Gentlemen, took their leaves for that time, and in the Afternoon of the same day returned again with two of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Surrey, viz. Sir Richard How, and Peter Rich Esq; both Members of Parliament. The first of these took the Examination of one Mr. Hayter, the Gentleman before mentioned, who had had so long a jealousy of our proceedings

ceedings, touching several dangerous words that he had heard Mr. *John Zeale* utter at several times against some Persons of great Honour.

Then both the said Justices of the Peace took my Examination relating only to Mrs. *Celliers*, the Popish Midwife, because it was very late, and I did not think fit to disclose any more at that time, believing it most convenient to discover the secret of burning His Majesties Fleet in the first place, not knowing how soon it might be attempted by others, who, as Mrs. *Celliers* had told me, were to be engag'd in the same Design, though they were unknown to me.

In short time after this, I was sent for to the Council, where I gave my Information to the same effect, as I had given it before to the two said Justices of the Peace. Which I had no sooner done, but Mr. *Peter Rich* was called for in, and there delivered my Information in writing taken before him and Sir *Richard How*. Which being read, I was order'd to withdraw, and remanded back to Prison.

Soon after, I was order'd to attend the Lords of the Secret Committee, in the Lord Privy Seal's Chamber, near by the Lords House, where I was further examin'd, and so remanded, but heard no more of the business in seven or eight days.

In the mean time, one night, as Mr. *Zeale* and I were a-bed together, I told him I had something of great Consequence to say against the Lord *Arundell*, but was resolv'd not to declare it till I was brought before the House of Commons, which I daily expected; and wondring I was not sent for by them in all that time, which was about three weeks time from my first Discovery.

covery. A thing that very much perplex'd me, considering the great guilt under which I lay for concealing the Treason so long, and not having my Pardon.

Upon which *Mr. Zeal*, the next day, as I afterwards understood, sent to *Mr. Rich*, before mentioned, to intreat him with all speed to come to him: Which he accordingly did; to whom the said *Mr. Zeal* then disclosed what I had told him the night before, concerning the Lord *Arundel*; all which was done without my knowledge.

Upon which a Messenger came, and acquainted me, that *Mr. Rich* would speak with me in the Prison. I presently waited upon him: (*Mr. Lowman* the Keeper being then in the Room with him) But when I understood the business, I was not a little surpriz'd at *Mr. Rich's* Questions, finding thereby how *Mr. Zeal* had dealt by me. However *Mr. Rich* ask'd me, whether I were willing to declare my whole knowledge to him? Which I was really unwilling to do, and beg'd his pardon for such my unwillingness. Who thereupon desired me to tell him the name of the Lord, against whom, as I had intimated to *Mr. Zeal*, I had something to say. Upon which I nam'd the Lord *Arundel*.

The next morning early, being the 12. of *Novemb.* I wrote a Letter to the said *Mr. Rich*, desiring him not to harbour any ill Opinion of me; for that the reason I refus'd to be examin'd the Night before by him, was not out of any disrespect, or distrust of him, but by reason I would not have the secret divulg'd, there being then another Person in the Room.

The same Morning I received an Answer from him, that he would harbour no ill Opinion of me; telling me that he would be with me in the Afternoon, and advising me to be ready to discover the whole Truth of what I knew.

In the mean time came a Messenger from the House of Lords, with an Order for me to be immediately brought before the House. Where, at the Bar, I acquainted their Lordships that I was surpriz'd, not expecting to be call'd to any Examination before the Afternoon: However if their Lordships commanded to do it, I would deliver it in the best manner that I could remember, which should be nothing but the Truth; which was then done in reference to the Lord *Arundel*, referring my self for the rest to my Examination taken by the aforesaid Justices of the Peace.

Upon that I was ordered to withdraw; and immediately after, I again gave the same Information, relating to the Lord *Arundel* before Sir *Timothy Baldwin*, Mr. *Rich*, and Mr. *Warcup*. This was upon a *Saturday*; and the next *Munday* I was order'd to attend again by ten of the Clock: Which I did accordingly, at the Bar of the House; where while I continued, the Information aforesaid, taken by the three Justices of the Peace before mentioned, was read to me: The Earl of *Radnor* at the same time asking me, whither I did own that Information or no, by Vertue of the Oath which had been already given me by the said House? To which I answered in the Affirmative. And so was remanded, and heard no more of the business, nor of my Pardon, till three or four days after. At what time I was hurried out

of

of my Bed, by vertue of a Rule of the Court of Kings Bench, to give Evidence to the Grand Jury against Mrs. *Cellier*; which I did that morning.

Which being done, and being very apprehensive of the danger I was in, I made my Address to *John Arnold Esq*; now a Member of the Honourable House, representing my condition to him, how it had been above three Weeks since my first Discovery, and that I could not be heard before the House: Whereupon he went and acquainted some of the Members with what I had said. The Effect whereof was, that in less than an hours time I was called to the Bar of the House of Commons, where I first delivered my Information by word of Mouth, and then in Writing, as I have in these Sheets declared and published the same.

FINIS.

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